

**DREDGE MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE  
MEETING MINUTES  
NOVEMBER 4, 2004  
DES OFFICES  
PEASE TRADEPORT**

The meeting was held on Thursday November 4, 2004 from 1:00 to 2:55 PM, at DES office at 50 International Drive, Pease. Ted Diers chaired the meeting.

Mary Power introduced Ted Diers as the interim chairman. Former Chairman, Brian Mazerski has taken another job.

**Agenda additions:**

The Chairman was asked to add "Army Corp process for awarding projects" as the last "Other Business/Minor Projects" topic on today's agenda. Chairman said that in future meetings the agenda will have designated time allotments for each discussion item in order to keep the meetings from going too long.

**1. Review of Previous Minutes (Sept. 1, 2004).** Chairman made a correction on item 3. "Sagamore Creek". ACOE (Mike Walsh) said the project is not in the 2005 budget and he cannot predict whether or not it is in the 2006 budget. Minutes approved as corrected and written.

**Discussion Items:**

**2. Section 227, Seabrook, River St. Cut -** Chairman visited the site and said the dredging is scheduled start in late December 2004 and should be completed in March of 2005. Seabrook (Suzanne Manzi) asked if the Black Water River will be dredged first. Chairman reiterated that the dredging will begin late December. DES (Frank Richardson) gave a detailed update. He spoke with ACOE (Scott Leonard). The project was held up because of material problems but dredging is scheduled to start Dec. 15, 2004. Manzi asked if there is a set ending date. Chair said they project a March, 2005 finish. UNH (Tom Shevenell) said UNH has a post-project monitoring program set up with the ACOE to monitor the elevation changes as a result of the project. NMFS (Mike Johnson) asked if they will be monitoring for erosion and what would be the duration of the monitoring. UNH (Shevenell) said they will be monitoring for erosion and changes in bathymetry but that it is not clear what the duration will be.

**3. Maintenance Dredging – Seabrook/Hampton Harbor –** Appledore (Ray Belleville) Two bids were received. One was from Southwind Co. for \$700,000. It will be awarded soon. Seabrook (Manzi) asked how the dredge material would be used. Appledore (Belleville) said it will be used as beach nourishment. It will be divided equally between Hampton and Seabrook Beaches.

**4. Sagamore Creek – Planning, Encroachments -** ACOE (Walsh) has no information about the encroachment issue. He reported that NMFS (Johnson) has expressed concerns

about the way the COE has delineated SAV or eelgrass in the area. NMFS (Johnson) said they have a concern about the methods being used especially when it's not being done in conjunction with the diver's survey. He continued by saying the person from WES, Bruce Sabol, is doing a presentation on the technology at the Sudbury office. COE (Walsh) spoke with the representatives who are doing the demonstration and plans to have more discussions with them and with NMFS. Discussion followed regarding funding. The project is not in the 2005 budget and the determination about the 2006 budget will be announced late spring, 2005. UNH (Fred Short) said he has done aerial surveys and that there is more eelgrass than is shown on the maps and asked if there are maps available showing the proposed dredge area. COE (Walsh) said he will send them and a copy of the report to Short. Chairman stated that the eelgrass issues will be discussed during the next DMTF meeting. COE (Walsh) said that the COE will be able to set a course of action during the next meeting but will probably not be able to settle on the locations of the eelgrass.

**5. Cocheco River Dredging Planning – contract status-dredging schedule –** COE (Walsh) said they have awarded a contract to S&R Corporation and their subcontractor, Moore's Marine who will do the dredging work. They are currently on-site developing their offload facility. The dredging is scheduled to start on November 15, 2004. The contractor has proposed moving the offload area back to the original location and all agreed that it is a good move. Dover (Steve Bird) asked where the new location will be. COE (Walsh) said it will be right in front of the granite bulkhead. Discussion followed about the deck barges that are being fitted out now at the offload area that will receive the dredge spoils. They are also constructing the crane barge to do the offloading. He continued by saying the COE has not received assurance of additional funding for the Cocheco project so are exercising the Dover Landing bridge work (PSNH) and will be performed this season. They intend to have another conference with PSNH. Chair stated that the spoils from the Exeter project will go to the Dover cell as well as the spoils from the PSNH project.

## **6. Other Business/Minor Projects:**

- **US Coast Guard Basin – New Castle:** Appledore (Bellivelle) produced graphics showing the proposed project. The Coast Guard needs to dredge the area around the boathouse to insure that the search and rescue and security vessels can get out at any time. US Coast Guard (Lt. Robert Hueller) said that at low tide the 47' vessels are bottoming out. Appledore (Deb Strand) referred to the graphic and stated that the original dredge area was to be 103,000 square feet with a depth of 9 feet with 1 foot of overdredge. After mapping the eelgrass the C.G. decided to decrease the dredging area to 51,000 s. f. In August 2004, Appledore and the C.G. met with DES, COE, NMFS and the EPA to discuss the eelgrass. In order to more accurately locate it they did transect lines and had divers swim with a video camera. They did sampling stations to determine densities along the transects. Also discussed at the August meeting was removal of the chain drag moorings owned by the C.G. that eliminate the eelgrass. They will be replaced with eelgrass-friendly moorings that float so it will replenish itself in that area. She

continued by saying there will be eelgrass monitoring studies done every year for five years after the dredging is complete to determine if the eelgrass is growing back at the deeper depth and how well the area is doing. As part of their studies they conducted soil samples and found it to be mostly silt material. It is too fine to be used as beach nourishment as the COE had hoped but could be used as cover material for the containment cells in Dover. They are beginning initial discussions with Dover. Dredging is planned to begin late in this dredge season. The DES permit has been approved but they await the COE permit. Appledore (Belleville) said that he spoke with COE (Rich Roach) at the end of October and was told Roach didn't have the status of the COE permit at that time so wonders if there are any problems. NMFS (Johnson) received the public notice about three weeks ago and have 30 days to respond. November 5, 2004 is the end of the comment period so the federal consultation is not completed. NFWS (Johnson) said a letter was sent to the COE on October 29, 2004 that contained conservation recommendations. Johnson continued by saying there are problems with the public notice. It failed to mention any presence of eelgrass within the basin and no mention of the mitigation plan. The only information contained was that mitigation would be in the form of avoidance of the western part of the basin and that a mooring management plan would be carried out. There are not enough specifics in the public notice for NMFS to respond to which they are required to do. NMFS has requested a full mitigation plan be provided detailing how much area would be compensated. The notice did not mention the post-construction monitoring. NMFS understands the operational needs of the project and does not object to the dredging but needs the impacts to be clearly defined and how they are being offset before they can respond. Appledore (Belleville) said the COE needs to address NMFS concerns. Coast Guard (Lt. Hueller) asked if NMFS is going to request a new public notice. NMFS (Johnson) said no, that they just need the information. Coast Guard (Lt. Hueller) asked for a timeframe for receipt of COE permit. NMFS (Johnson) said the COE is required to respond to them before they can issue the permit and that he is just waiting for the information. Discussion followed regarding timing and the dredging window ending March 15, 2005. Coast Guard (Lt. Hueller) said the contract process will take 90 days from the time they receive the permit. COE (Walsh) said he would call Rich Roach tomorrow (Nov. 5) to inquire about the status of the permit and the COE response to NMFS. Chairman asked if NMFS has heard from EPA and FWS. NMFS (Johnson) said he knows EPA is writing a letter. DPH (Marconi) asked how much material does this entail. Coast Guard (Lt. Hueller) said it is 11,500 cubic yards. COE (Walsh) asked where the material will be stored until it is used by Dover for capping the cells. Appledore (Belleville) said that he and the city of Dover (Dean Peschel) and DES (Mike Sills), after looking at the analysis of the materials, deemed it clean and Dover would receive the material and place it in a cell to dewater and use it as cover material. Discussion followed.

- UNH Pier Project - New Castle:

UNH (Rich Rouleau) said in 2001 UNH received excess property from the Coast Guard with included their Cutter pier which was previously found to be



structurally unsound. Later in 2001 UNH received a grant from NOAA to replace the pier and build the marine research lab. At mid-2003 it was discovered that because of the important historic structures at that site. The current plan is to build the marine lab portion of the project at Odiorne Point State Park. However, it will be a long time before the project is underway because there will be a federal Land and Water Conservation Fund conversion process. The project will have a salt water intake structure and will need the required Wetlands Bureau permits, etc. At the New Castle property the plan is to put in a 375' pier vs. the 500' of the original pier. They are going to rotate the pier slightly north so that the UNH vessels don't encroach upon the Coast Guard any further. He continued by saying they are planning a 6000' building for pier support that includes offices, dive locker, workshop, storage facility for the under-pier research operations. They have performed and submitted an eelgrass study and has been told the new pier will not impact the eelgrass beds. There is a concern about eelgrass disturbance during construction so the contract documents will instruct contractor to avoid sensitive areas. VHB is doing the Essential Fish Habitat assessment and it will be ready to submit soon. UNH (Fred Short) asked if the floating docks to be placed on the south side will overlap the eelgrass distribution. UNH (Rouleau) said no because they are swinging the pier to the north they will stay within the existing footprint. NMFS (Johnson) spoke with the biologist at VHB regarding EFH assessment several months ago and because NMFS is funding the project they are the action agency on it for federal purposes. He recommended that the consultant send a copy of the draft so that he can review it. Discussion followed about using the materials within the cribs to create artificial reefs. UNH (Rouleau) said they would be willing to move the materials but are not willing to do so if it will mean the project will be held up or that more studies will need to be done. DES (Richardson) cited a project at Bellamy Mills dam where a large timber crib dam was taken down the rock was redistributed in the river bottom according the Fish and Game's plan. Perhaps the same plan could be used in New Castle. UNH (Rouleau) said he will suggest it.

- Phillips-Exeter Academy docks dredging; Appledore (Belleville) explained that the project is the dredging of the basin at the boathouse used for the rowing program. The permits for it were issued a little over a year ago. The dredge materials were to be placed at an agricultural site that the Academy owns in Kensington. They did some further testing of the materials and found high levels of hydrocarbons so the dredging was not done. Negotiations were made with Dover and the material will be placed in the Dover cells. The contractor will begin dredging on November 15, 2004. They will dredge 7000 yards and be finished by the middle of December 2004. The offload site is at Exeter's treatment lagoon. Fish and Game (Bruce Smith) stated concern about the smelt fishery and the use of a clamshell and the turbidity it causes. He asked if other options were reviewed. Appledore (Belleville) did look at other options but because the cove is small in area and is a dead-end cove. Fish and Game (Smith) said that the fishery doesn't occur until icing but there are smelt in those areas at

the time of the proposed dredging. Appledore (Belleville) said that at low tide it is a mudflat so there will be no smelt in the area being dredged.

- Comprehensive (Upland) Dredge Spoil Disposal Study – planning; COE (Saji Varghese, for Chris Hatfield) said they have finished the historical analysis of the dredge materials and are trying to identify upland sites. They are now trying to predict future needs. Chairman asked what the next step would be. Mr. Varghese said they will try to decide frequencies and project future dredging needs. Dover (Bird) asked about the criteria is for choosing dredging disposal sites. COE (Varghese) looks at soil characteristics, land use, proximity to drinking water supply and the site would have to be a maximum of 50 miles from the dredge site. Chairman asked if COE would present the study to the group when it is completed. Affirmative.
- Piscataqua River: Turning Basin; COE (Walsh) said he doesn't have a report except to say they have received a package of information and it is being reviewed. (PDA/DPH (Marconi) stated that DPH has sent a letter to the COE stating that they reviewed the preliminary work and agrees that they should proceed to the next phase, which is a feasibility study. DPH also said it is willing to enter into an MOU with the COE and understands that there will be cost sharing with that.
- Simplex Shoal Planning; NH Fish and Game (Smith) sent material back to the COE and await response. It was sent initially in July 2004 and again in Sept. Smith gave a brief synopsis of the issue. COE is looking for a long-term agreement on dredging in that area. They want to dispose the dredge materials in the river, which is viewed as an additional stress on the migrating lobster during the existing dredge window. F&G suggested that if they do the dredging after December, F&G would not oppose in-river disposal.
- Addendum; Funding discussion. COE (Walsh) said the way the COE receives it's funding for projects has changed. The competition is with all other federal navigation projects and what they are looking for is economic justification and commerce. The projects with the best justification and supporting information are the ones that get funded. Projects like the type in the Piscataqua have a better chance because there is a lot of commerce and much good information. He listed the items of importance: site sources of factual information; report information specific to a project and provide narrative on importance of the project to the region and the economy. He continued by listing the factors. Commerce, which is given the highest priority, safety and public health, national/state/local security, recreation, which is a low priority and environmental factors and consequences are looked at. "Value to the Nation" is the way the COE looks at projects. He said there is a meeting in Springfield VA which takes place on December 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> with stakeholders such as representatives from the State to discuss the measurements and to have a voice for the small harbors projects. Chair asked if the state should enter into an economic study of NH's ports and harbors. COE

(Walsh) said it is a good idea and will a concise list of things (information) that is feasible to get. Seabrook (Manzi) said the Nuclear Power plant will be decommissioned and the large parts will be barged out through the harbor and would that type of activity come under the list of factors you stated and, therefore, make it a priority to have Seabrook/Hampton harbor dredged? COE (Walsh) said that because of the one time use it will have less weight than continuing use of a project. He said it behoove the state to have the information available. He strongly suggests that someone from NH go to the meeting in VA because it is an opportunity to shape the rules.

- Next DMTF Meeting: Thursday, January 13, 2005, 1:00 PM at DES office, 50 International Drive, Pease Tradeport.

#### Attendance DMTF 4 Nov 04

<u>Agency</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Phone (603)</u>	<u>Fax Ext</u>	<u>E-mail Address</u>
DES/NHCP	Ted Diers	559-00271		<a href="mailto:tdiers@des.state.nh.us">tdiers@des.state.nh.us</a>
NMFS	Mike Johnson	978-281-9130	9103	<a href="mailto:mike.r.johnson@noaa.gov">mike.r.johnson@noaa.gov</a>
DOT	Matthew Moore	271-1638	3515	<a href="mailto:mmoore@dot.state.nh.us">mmoore@dot.state.nh.us</a>
DOT	Michelle Juliano	271-1645		<a href="mailto:mjuliano@dot.state.nh.us">mjuliano@dot.state.nh.us</a>
UNH	Tom Shevenell	284-7415		<a href="mailto:shevenell@aol.com">shevenell@aol.com</a>
DES	Collis Adams	271-4054		<a href="mailto:cadams@des.state.nh.us">cadams@des.state.nh.us</a>
COE	Mike Walsh	978-318-8586		<a href="mailto:Michael.E.Walsh@nae02.usace.army.mil">Michael.E.Walsh@nae02.usace.army.mil</a>
COE	Saji Varghese	978-318-8027		<a href="mailto:Saji.Varghese@usace.army.mil">Saji.Varghese@usace.army.mil</a>
DOVER	Steve Bird	516-6008		<a href="mailto:s.bird@ci.dover.nh.us">s.bird@ci.dover.nh.us</a>
SEABROOK	Suzanne Manzi	474-9644		<a href="mailto:spmanzi@comcast.net">spmanzi@comcast.net</a>
UNH	Rich Rouleau	862-0106		<a href="mailto:Rich.rouleau@unh.edu">Rich.rouleau@unh.edu</a>
UNH	Fred Short	862-5134		<a href="mailto:Fred.short@unh.edu">Fred.short@unh.edu</a>
PDA-DPH	Geno Marconi	436-8500		<a href="mailto:g.marconi@peasedev.org">g.marconi@peasedev.org</a>
PDA-DPH	Tracy Shattuck	436-8500		<a href="mailto:t.shattuck@peasedev.org">t.shattuck@peasedev.org</a>
NHF&G	Bruce Smith	868-1095		<a href="mailto:rjohnston@nhfgd.org">rjohnston@nhfgd.org</a>
Appledore	Ray Belleville	433-8818		<a href="mailto:rbelleville@appledoreeng.org">rbelleville@appledoreeng.org</a>
Appledore	Deb Strand	433-8818		<a href="mailto:dstrand@appledoreeng.org">dstrand@appledoreeng.org</a>
US COAST GUARD	Lt. Robert Hueller	(401) 736-1729		<a href="mailto:rahuellet@ceupitoudeice.us.mil">rahuellet@ceupitoudeice.us.mil</a>
DES	Frank Richardson	559-1513		<a href="mailto:frichardson@des.state.nh.us">frichardson@des.state.nh.us</a>